AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

" *O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint*
" *Agricolas.*" . . . VIRG.

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AGRICULTURAL.

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Agricultural Society of Virginia.

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ARTIFICIAL GRASSES.

It is universally agreed, that a constant impoverishment of land must ensue from tillage, without the renovation produced by manure and vegetable matter—hence, the cheapest and most ample supplies of these renovators is a primary subject; as neither the improvement nor preservation of the soil can be effected without using the means. It was seen as early as in the time of Columella, that the efforts of nature to furnish us with these means, without the aid of culture and art, were incompetent to the end; and nearly equivalent in value, to the spontaneous supply of food by the wilderness, compared with the supply from industry and cultivation. Writers reason from this discovery as an axiom, and prove that the fertility of old countries bears a strict relation to the use made of it. Egypt itself owes its fertility to its annual alluvion manuring. Thus the culture of artificial grasses attracted great attention, wherever a system of agriculture existed, worthy of any degree of commendation; it being seen that the prosperity of nations, as well as of farmers, was evidently graduated by the degrees of skill and industry, with which this axiom was practised upon; and that they were the chief means for its practical effect. Whilst a country is fresh and the soil saturated with vegetable manure, it constitutes a temporary case; and a vast extent of uncleared lands, will long keep out of view, the means for preserving the good, and improving the exhausted. But when it has passed the vigour of youth, and exhibits the marks of old age, the alternative of reducing it to barrenness, or of adopting the only mode in existence for restoring its fertility, lies before the eyes of its inhabitants. Excepting a few strips of alluvion land, there is no cultivated country, in which a dependence upon the natural grasses is more hopeless than in Virginia. A thin soil, exposed to hot and dry summers, not only prevents our lands from clothing and nourishing themselves, but has at length rendered them even unable to raise working animals for their own cultivation, and a sufficient supply of meat, milk and butter for their own cultivators. A remedy for their own cultivators. A remedy for this state of things, is necessary to stop the emigration from Virginia, and to prevent its ultimate depopulation. If the culture of artificial grasses is the chief remedy, it can only be overlooked, because it is not embellished by the glittering ornaments of novelty, and only assumes the plain garb of reason and experience.

Before the effects produced by a skilful culture of the artificial grasses, are enumerated, let us take a glance at them, collectively, in other countries. In Holland, where the cultivation of grass is generally preferred to that of bread, land sells higher as land, without having its price enhanced by adventitious circumstances, than in any other country. The industrious and profit-loving Dutch, choose rather to import, than to raise their own bread-stuff, at the expense of diminishing the culture of artificial grasses. They are as little likely as any people in the world, to make an election by which they would lose money. In England, the cultivation of grass is so much more profitable, than that of bread-stuff, as to have obtained a preference, at the expense of considerable importations of the latter. The bearings of this fact are weighty. Hay and butcher's meat in England, are nearly of the same prices as in this country—whereas, wheat there, is often three times dearer than wheat here, and seldom less than double in price. Yet the English farmers prefer raising artificial grasses, to raising wheat. Again, the rent as well as price of land, is constantly highest in those countries, where the culture of artificial grasses is pushed farthest. In England, the rent of fine artificial meadows, sometimes extends to twenty dollars an acre, rarely diminishes to ten, and is never as low as the rent of adjoining arable land, however good. As the rate of rent is settled by the rate of profit, it follows that even there, where the prices of meat and hay approach much nearer to our prices than the price of wheat, it is most profitable to raise the articles of inferiour price. Much light may also be extracted from a comparison between the general rate of rent here and in England. It must be our best land, which would rent at one dollar an acre for a term of twenty-one years; and even at this low rent, both the land and the tenant are generally ruined. In England, much of the arable land rents at about ten dollars an acre, and its average rent is about six. But there, the culture of artificial grasses, is invariably mingled with the culture of grain. Now when we see the best grazing land there, renting higher than the best arable land, and their farms renting ten times higher than ours, does it not plainly follow, that both a great profit and a vast improvement of the soil, must arise from the culture of artificial grasses; and that the difference in rent between their farms and ours, is in a great measure produced by the latter circumstance? This conclusion is warranted by the fact, that the longer the term of a lease is, the higher is the rent there, and lower here; because the tenant in one case, calculates upon a mode of tillage which will improve the land; and in the other, upon its becoming poorer. What but the use of artificial grasses, and their exclusion, has made both these calculations correct?

Let us now resort to indigenous facts. Lands sell and rent higher in the United States, in proportion to the extent and skill with which artificial grasses are cultivated. There is no doubt, but that here, as abroad, profit is the only permanent basis of price and rent; and as the highest price and rent attends the culture of artificial grasses, the greatest profit must also attend it. Both at home and abroad, the land nursed by artificial grasses, is known to be so much richer and productive, both of grain and meat, than lands not so nursed, as to pay labour far better, without taking into the account a long list of other benefits arising from this system of culture. The most productive bread-stuff farms, are those whereon grain is raised on grass lays. Of this fact, the slightest observation, experience or reflection, would convince the most incredulous.

The general conclusion, that grazing ruins land, as we know from experience, when applied to natural grasses only, but enriches it when combined with a skilful management of artificial grasses, as in the cases of Holland, England, and some parts of the United States; suffices to excite those who love their country or themselves, to inquire after the practical modes of a system, which experimentally enriches both, and solicits an attention to the distinct items of profit, by which these desirable ends are produced.

1. The phrase "artificial grasses" implies a selection from the gramineous family, and a culture by human art, of the kinds best adapted to the soil and climate of a country, in preference to a reliance upon the grasses produced naturally. The great value of this selection, is illustrated by the contrast between the crab of the wilderness, and the cultivated pippin of the orchard; or by a comparison between the esculents of a garden and those of spontaneous production.

2. An improvement of the soil by the culture of artificial grasses, arises from the vegetable matter of both root and top, when ungrazed; from the former when grazed; from protecting the ground against heat in summer and cold in winter; from producing food to raise animal manure; from rendering the ground fit to bear deeper ploughing, by reason of the mass of vegetable matter mingled with it, than it can bear in a naked state; by which its soil is deepened; and from saving four fifths of the farm from the hoof and the tooth, by making one fifth far more adequate to supply the demand for grass, than the whole without such culture. The profit arising from this improvement of land by the use of artificial grasses, is exhaustless and incomputable.

3. Artificial grasses enable the farmer to raise meats of all kinds, for his own use or for maket, of the best quality, in the cheapest modes; and to increase the size of all animals destined to slaughter or labour. The latter, by being raised in the climate where they are to work, are hardier, healthier, and better adapted for their employments. And whilst the farmer saves the expense of purchasing sorry meat and teams, he gets good without expense; because by a skilful management of artificial grasses, the manure they cause domestic animals to produce, will more than repay in the improvement of soil and increase of crops, the expense of their maintenance. This item of profit is too important to be hastily passed over. Men chiefly subsist upon grain and meat; brutes upon grass, green or dry. The difference between the expense of cultivating an acre of grain and one of grass is inconsiderable, and yet the latter will raise far more meat, butter, tallow, leather, and wool. Let any farmer calculate the expense of supplying himself with these articles, in the present mode, even excluding its heaviest item, (that of injury to the land,) and he would probably discover that most or all of them he raises cost him three times their market value. The loss however upon what he sells is triffling, compared with the loss upon what he uses: because he consumes much and sells little. When the temporary supplies from the western country diminish or fail, the evils attending upon our present mode of raising stocks, will require no proof. The arts of agriculture are as necessary to improve and increase the sustenance of beasts as that of men. Grass being the basis of food in the case of stocks, as bread-stuff is in the case of man, that mode of obtaining it which produces the most and best, with the least injury to the land, and from the smallest space, is entitled to a preference. Without the cultivation of artificial grasses, our domestic stocks occupy the precise ground occupied by mankind, when excluded from the artificial modes of raising bread-stuff, and experience the fate of a state of agriculture, as to them, uncivilized.

4. The artificial grasses produce a considerable profit by saving labour. If the labour applied to an acre enriched by artificial grass, was equal to that expended upon an impoverished acre, a vast saving would still result from the difference of the crop; as the expense of labour must be computed in relation to its produce. But the fact is, that the poor land requires the most labour, whilst it produces the worst crop, because being filled with seeds of worthless or pernicious annual grasses or weeds, and being incapable of bearing a ploughing sufficiently deep to deposite these seeds beyond the reach of vegetation, it requires double the work to destroy them as they sprout and grow after every rain, which would suffice if they were extirpated. This cannot be effected on poor land without killing it. On such, the wheat which follows corn, though the corn required and received six or seven workings, is always more infested with annual grasses and weeds, than that sown upon only a single furrow turning under good perennial grasses, because they smother all annuals, and any seeds of the latter remaining, are buried by one deep ploughing, which the earth is able to bear below the reach of vegetation. Hence in the culture of corn upon a perennial grass lay, as in a fallow for wheat, half the labour required by poor lands may be saved; because but few of the annuals appear after one deep ploughing, and as the perennials hardly appear at all in the summer, very little culture is required; and the crop is not only increased by the artificial grasses turned in, but by being freed from the frequent laceration of its roots, caused by frequent ploughings necessary to keep under the quick growing annuals infesting thin land. The wheat also following corn planted on a perennial grass lay is cleaner; for although the perennial grass seeds will often sprout in the spring, and although they ought universally to be sown with or upon the wheat, yet a providential aptitude for the benefits they bestow, is discernible in their slow growth until the wheat crop is perfected; whereas the annuals often grow as rapidly as the wheat itself. There are many weighty items of profit belonging to the labour-saving article, by the culture of perennial grasses. By diminishing arable space, whilst the crop is increased, the diminished space consumes less labour. From a division of the objects of labour, a succession of employments ensues, enabling a farmer to prevent either from suffering by the want of cultivation in due season. For instance, a full crop of corn and wheat, or a crop equal to the whole labour on a farm, is the consequence of comparing labour with space; and a great demand of both crops for labour at the same period, especially if aggravated by unpropitious weather, generally produces some neglect, and often a considerable loss. By diminishing space, not only without diminishing, but actually increasing produce, these crops will be more manageable by the labour, and receive a better cultivation. And the time saved by this diminution of space, is moreover profitably employed early in the spring, in applying manure and sowing grass seeds; previously to the wheat harvest, in maying hay; in autumn, in ditching and draining, fencing and stubbing; and at all times in a variety of less important, but improving occupations. Thus the losses accruing both from a surplus of labour at one season, and from its deficiency at another, are avoided. Some labour is saved by the effect of the roots and tops of perennial grasses, to keep the ground loose and friable; and much, after it is thrown into high ridges of five and a half feet width, because when the ridges are reversed, very deep ploughing is more easily practicable, by turning the earth back into the furrows without working at all on the space these furrows occupy. By the friability of the ground, resulting from a great quantity of vegetable fibres, we are also secured against its baking, and save the labour necessary in that event, for crumbling or reducing it again into a proper state of vegetation. Naked ground possesses neither of these advantages. It is unable to bear the deep ploughing necessary for forming proper ridges, and it is liable both to wash and bake from heavy rains, so as to require much severe labour, again to level and pulverise it, highly prejudicial to the crop.

5. But the greatest benefit from the cultivation of artificial grasses, arises from their exclusive capacity to make highland meadows. Some grasses are so well adapted for high, dry, and hilly land, if the soil is improvable, that it may very often be made more valuable and more productive than low land meadows. The expense of clearing and draining the latter, will generally exceed that of manuring the former; yet draining is considered every where as highly profitable and useful. The comparative expense between that and making highland grass, is not materially affected by the probable comparative profit. A good spring crop of highland grass is more common in our climate, than of low land. It is not exposed to inundation. A pound of high land grass, green or dry, generally contains as much nutriment as two of low land. It is more easily made into good hay. And high land grasses possess the great exclusive value of enriching the high and dry lands on which they are sown. These considerations disclose items of profit, resulting from the culture of artificial grasses, which, when united, warrant the conclusion, that it is capable of rendering a great proportion of our high, dry, and hilly lands as valuable as reclaimed meadow land.

It is next to be considered, what grasses are best adapted to the soil and climate of Virginia, and consequently most worthy of selection. The merit of red clover as an improving highland grass, is too well established to require proof. Its defects are, that it is speedily destroyed by grazing; bearing, however, that of hogs the longest; that in our warm and dry summers, it soon perishes without being grazed, especially on sandy soils; that it is difficult to be made into hay, and that its hay can only be preserved by particular exertions. It stands, however, hitherto unrivalled in its capacity to enrich the ground, if left uncut to be turned in by the plough. Timothy, in the lower parts of the state, especially if grazed, is also liable to an early death; to be eaten out by broomstraw, to have its leaves burnt and dried by the sun before it is fit to be cut; and to ripen so late as to incommode the wheat harvest, without possessing the quality of waiting long for the scythe. In the section of Virginia below the mountains, it must also be assigned to the class of low land grasses. The red top, or herd's grass, as it is indiscriminately called, is superior to timothy in many respects. It lasts longer, it bears grazing better, its leaves are not so liable to be sunburnt, it resists invaders much more powerfully—sown, mixed with timothy, it casts out the latter in two or three years, and although it ripens about the same time, it waits longer for the scythe, without sustaining any considerable injury. This grass, like timothy, is better adapted to reclaimed low lands than to high, though it succeeds on the latter better than timothy. The best grass which I have tried, in many respects, is one commonly called "the high land meadow oat." I have had no means of ascertaining whether it is a species of rye grass, or of the avena pratensis, or neither, nor whence it derived the appellation "Peruvian," by which I have heard it distinguished. With its qualities I am better acquainted, having carefully observed them for many years. It ripens as early as the red clover, and is easily made into fine hay, if cut in proper time. Its earliness is of vast importance in our climate.

Thence it happens, that it produces heavy spring crops, like red clover, as it commonly perfects its growth before a drought occurs. It is the hardiest grass I ever saw, and bears drought and frost, heat and cold, much better than any I have tried. It keeps possession of the land in spite of severe grazing. It flourishes best on soils suitable for red clover, but it will live on and improve lands whereon red clover will perish. It furnishes better grazing early in the spring, late in the fall, in droughts and in winter, than any grass known to me. Ripening with the red clover, it is peculiarly fitted for being sown with it, because it greatly facilitates its conversion into hay, and retains possession of the ground for years after the clover has disappeared. Alone, cut before the seed ripens, its hay is as nutritive and pleasant to stocks of all kinds, as any I have ever used; and it will yield both seed and tolerably good hay at one cutting, as it ripens soonest at top. Mixed with favourite grasses of grazing animals, it is partially rejected, but eaten as they fail. Alone, it is greedily fed upon. After being cut or grazed, if left to grow, it rises anew, almost with the rapidity of lucerne, with a vigour but little diminished. Fifteen years experience has not enabled me to decide as to its capacity for improving the soil, because the small quantity of seed first obtained, by confining experiments to small patches, long concealed its qualities; and the large lots first sown have remained too flourishing to require manure, and too valuable to be ploughed up. It produces (after it has come to perfection, in doing which it is one year slower than red clover,) ungrazed and uncut, a warmer and more lasting cover than the clover, which has recently induced me to mix and sow it with wheat on a large scale, for the end of improving the soil, in which anticipation I have yet discerned no cause for apprehension. For this purpose, it possesses one recommendation beyond clover. It does not grow and spread so rapidly in the fall or spring, as to injure the crop of wheat with which it is sown, as is sometimes the case with clover. Upon the whole, whatever doubt remains as to its fertilizing power, the conclusions that it eminently possesses the qualities for lasting, grazing, and making high land hay, may, I think, be confided in. But it does not, so far as my trials have extended, succeed in lands originally wet, however well they are drained.

As the end designed to be produced by the previous observations, comprises their value, a plan for the management of a bread stuff farm, combined with high land meadows and artificial grasses, is the remaining subject suggested for consideration. Let us suppose a farm to consist of one thousand acres of arable land; that the greatest produce of bread grain, not in one year only, but in a course of years, is the chief object; and that the labour on it is adequate to its cultivation in the three-shift mode, that is, to having two-thirds of it annually in corn and wheat. To discover whether the profit to be expected from this style of cultivation, will be equal to that arising from the system presently to be proposed, we must first glance at its defects. It impoverishes the soil. Grass seeds cannot be beneficially sown with or upon the wheat crop, because the land is too poor to nourish them, and their destruction by the plough returns too rapidly. Pasturage is scarce, bad and impoverishing to the land; and the farmer is thereby disabled from raising within the farm, teams, meat, milk, and butter, for his own consumption and comfort, and moreover exposed to annual expenses to supply the deficiencies. The labour being computed by space, and not by produce, and a great demand for it being concentrated in one portion of the year, losses accrue from its insufficiency to meet temporary pressures, and at other seasons for want of beneficial employment. The crop computed by the acre is, upon an average, surprisingly small, whilst as much labour is necessary for its cultivation, as, differently managed, would in a few years increase it per acre four-fold. Let us contrast this abridgment of the three-shift system, with an abridgment of that proposed to be substituted for it.

Let eight hundred of the supposed thousand acres be divided into four shifts of two hundred acres each, one to be annually cultivated in corn and sown in wheat, so that two will yield a crop every year. As much as possible of each shift should be manured the year it is planted in corn. This may be extended in a few years to one hundred and thirty acres, (exclusively of the twenty presently mentioned,) by ordinary management. Clover should be sown on the wheat in the spring, or meadow oat with it in the fall, and these eight hundred acres should remain ungrazed; of course, four hundred lie untouched for two and a half years, to allow time for a large produce of vegetable matter, devoted to the improvement of the soil. Let the remaining two hundred acres be appropriated chiefly to grass, and be divided into ten equal lots, one to be highly manured annually and cultivated in pumpkins, potatoes, peas, cotton, turnips, or any cleaning crop, to be followed by wheat and grass seed, if these crops are gotten off in time to sow wheat, or by oats and grass seed, if they are not. Thus two lots, or forty acres of this portion of the farm, will produce each year heavy and valuable crops, whilst a rotation will be established, sufficient to keep the grass lands clean and in good heart. Three of the other eight lots ought annually to be cut for hay, and five to be reserved for grazing, out of which last number should be annually taken the lot to be manured, so that none will sustain above five years grazing before it is recruited.

The five lots devoted to that service ought to be grazed in succession, both to alleviate the impoverishment it produces, and to increase the produce of grass. Hence he who aims at agricultural perfection or elegance, will divide these ten lots by ditches and live hedges of holly or cedar, (the former a conjectural, the latter a tried plant,) or at least by the usual fences. Even ditches alone would be of some use. But in the infancy of improvement, the attendance of old men, women, or children, are a tolerable resource, producing also the good effect of habituating the last in early life to employment, and advancing their health, with the precaution of folding the cattle in bad weather. This temporary resource is, however, greatly inferior to enclosures, particularly to the living or imperishable. Under this system, product, instead of labour, will soon be computed in reference to space; and had agriculture, being detected by the miserable crops this mode of computation will disclose, will shrink gradually out of sight, through shame. The means of raising manure, and the most beneficial employment for teams and manual labour, will soon present themselves in those seasons of the year now lost or trifled away. I speak not from theory when I say, that the farm well managed, according to this system, will, in twenty years at least, return back to its original fertility. I add, as an inference from this fact, that supposing contiguous farms of one thousand acres each, one in the usual state of impoverishment and the other in woods, the former to be thus managed, and the latter in the customary mode, with the same amount of labour; that the proprietor of the first would make far more profit, and find his land at the end of the term of far more value, than the proprietor of the latter. If these rival farms were in an equal state of impoverishment, at the commencement of the experiment, I have no doubt but the first would produce three times as much bread-stuff in twenty years as its rival, independent of its inferior productions, and of its exclusive improvement.

A great annual increase of manure is the soundest test by which a farmer can discover whether he is successfully practising the proposed system or not. On the area from which it was taken, five acres were hardly manured eighteen years ago, and now the resources of the farm alone sometimes reach to one hundred and fifty. It is a bread-stuff farm, and grass is used in strict subserviency to that object, for the purpose of enhancing its profit. If gypsum, marle, a neighbourhood to towns, or any other adventitious mode of enriching land, can be added to the supply of manure on such a farm, the process of improvement, and the gratifications of increasing profit, may be accelerated.

The large area upon which the proposed system is calculated, is no obstacle to its application to any other. Its proportions may be applied to a farm of any size. This scale was adopted for the purpose of awakening the best informed order of farmers to the calls of patriotism and self-interest. Intelligence effects great objects by reflection; ignorance from imitation; and though a prosperous state of agriculture depends much upon small farmers, because they possess by far the greatest portion of the national lands, perhaps also of the national industry, its introduction depends upon the successful example of the large ones, who have time, capital and talents adequate to the cultivation of a science abounding in difficulties, and requiring no small degree of reflection. The merchants of Scotland, who had retired from trade, began about fifty years ago to assail, by precept and example, the then execrable system of agriculture habitually practised in that country, and have supplanted it by another, which has diffused a rich surface over a great space, previously occupied by a cadaverous degree of sterility. As we neither love our country less, nor confess an inferiority of intellect, an equal share of effort and perseverance by gentlemen farmers, will certainly be crowned with as much success as the efforts and perseverance of these gentlemen merchants.

since our auxiliary advantages of soil and climate are greater. They effected their patriotic design, chiefly by the introduction of the artificial grass culture; and when we consider the favourableness of our climate for great spring crops of grass, frequently demonstrated by as heavy crops of clover as we hear or read of, and also its favourableness for converting them into hay, no reason exists for despairing of obtaining the wonderful state of fertility which a country less favoured by nature, has acquired by the same means.

I admit that a farmer may make a less crop than usual, the first or second year after he adopts the recommended system, unless he begins with a due attention to manuring; but I deny that his profit will be less, because his diminution of crop will be more than compensated by the improvement of his land. An average of the first four years will probably produce a crop numerically equal, at least, to his usual crops; but then his profit will be greater, because having raised it from less space, he will have saved much labour for improvement, and his land will be in better heart. Afterwards his crops will numerically increase gradually to an extent I cannot foresee. Should a man calculate by his hopes of life and chance for self gratification, without any regard for contemporaries, or posterity, he ought to adhere to the prevalent system of agriculture, if he expects to live two years only; if but four, his determination may admit of some doubt; but if he expects to live longer, it ought to admit of none. Even principles so narrow, will dictate to him an abandonment of the present land killing habits. A calculation which looks forward but two years, cannot possibly procure success for any agricultural system, except one for exhausting the land as soon as possible. All men, who calculate on so short an interest in the product of land, will strive to increase it to the utmost extent, at the expense of the land itself. A proprietor, sure of dying in one or two years, would improve but with little spirit, though his land was to descend to his children, but a possessor for one or two years, likely to lose the land and live, must feel a great lassitude in improving for future profit, what he cannot keep for future enjoyment. No good system of agriculture can possibly take place, under the suggestions of these impulses.

I admit also that disappointments will happen from feeble and unskilful trials. Complete success will too often be expected from partial attempts. The imagination can magnify the disrupted toe of a statue, into an entire image, and brood over a fragment with self-complacency; and fanaticism can expect wonders from relicks transmitted from ignorance; but it is to be hoped that such cases will be rare in this age of intelligence and free inquiry; that the prejudices imbibed from old habits will be exploded, and that the industry and good sense of the Virginians will rapidly improve all suggestions, the tendency of which is to preserve their country from decay, and themselves from indigence.

An observation is reserved for the conclusion of this essay, to face an opinion, not less erroneous than common; and not less hostile to profit than to improvement. It is two often imagined, that a rotation requiring the interposition of artificial grasses between exhausting crops, is slow in its return of profit, and demands an extraordinary capital, to supply for a time the necessities arising from this delay. But from long and attentive observation, I have confidently concluded, that no crop requires less capital, than these grasses, or is equally rapid in its returns of profit. The labour which cultivates other crops, prepares the ground to receive grass seeds, and they are mingled and sown with grain. Seed is therefore nearly all the extraordinary capital this system needs, when the artificial grasses are grazed, or devoted to the enrichment of the soil; and the expense of converting a portion of them into hay, though not as trivial, is yet inconsiderable. The returns of profit are infinitely more copious and lasting, as well as more rapid, than those made by any other crop. They suddenly yield milk, butter, cheese, meat, wool and leather. Manure, an increase of grain and other crops, and good working animals, soon follow. At every rotation, when ploughed in ungrazed, they present to the farmer an improved soil, without causing additional expense, or requiring additional labour. On the contrary, so far as artificial grasses are thus used, they save him more labour in the single article of fencing, than they consume. And finally, the profit of the system becomes so incorporated with the soil, whilst it is also enjoyed by the reaper, as both to last long, and annually to generate profit upon profit, in a ratio outstripping the fecundity of compound interest.

(Communicated for re-publication in the American Farmer.)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Of the Agricultural Society of Albemarle.

The undersigned, farmers of Albemarle and the circumjacent counties, duly appreciating the importance both in a national and individual point of view, of an improved system of husbandry; sensible of their own deficiency of knowledge in the theory and practice of rural economy; persuaded that agricultural associations have proved eminently beneficial to other states and countries; and desirous to procure for themselves and their neighbours the advantages of such institutions; have determined to associate together, and to constitute an Agricultural Society, having for its attention and inquiry the following objects, and for its government, the rules and regulations hereinafter specified.

1st. Objects for the attention and inquiry of the Society.

I. And principally, the cultivation of our primary staples, wheat, tobacco and hemp for market.

II. All subsidiary articles for the support of the farm, the food, the clothing and the comfort of the household, as Indian corn, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, millet, the families of peas and beans, the whole family of grasses, turnips, potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, and other useful roots, cotton and flax, the garden and orchard.

III. The care and services of useful animals, for the saddle or draught, for food or clothing, and the destruction of noxious quadrupeds, fowls, insects and reptiles.

IV. Rotation of crops, and the circumstances which should govern or vary them, according to the varieties of soil, climate or markets of our different counties.

V. Implements of husbandry, and operations with them, among which the plough, and all its kindred instruments for dividing the soil, holds the first place, and the threshing machine an important one, the simplification of which is a great desideratum. Successful examples too of improvement in the operations of these instruments would be an excitement to correct the slovenly and unproductive practices too generally prevalent.

VI. Farm buildings and conveniences, enclosures, roads, fuel and timber.

VII. Manures, plaster, green dressings, fallows and other means of ameliorating the soil.

VII. Calendars of work, showing how a given number of labourers and draught animals are to be employed every day in the year, so as to perform within themselves and in their due time, according to the usual course of the seasons, all the operations of a farm of given size, this being essential to the proportioning of the labour to the size of the farm.

IX. A succinct report of the different practices of husbandry in the district inhabited by the members of the society, including the bad as well as the good, that those who follow the former may read and see their own condemnation in the same page which offers better examples for their adoption. It is believed that a judicious execution of this article alone might nearly supersede every other duty of the society, inasmuch as it would present every good practice which has occurred to the mind of any cultivator of the state for imitation, and every bad one for avoidance; and the choicest processes culled from every farm would compose a course probably near perfection.

X. And finally, such subjects in husbandry and the arts, connected with, or subsidiary to it, not heretofore enumerated, as the society may hereafter propose for its consideration.

2d. Rules and Regulations.

I. The society shall be styled "The Agricultural Society of Albemarle."

II. The officers of the society shall be a president, a first and second vice president, a treasurer a secretary, and an assistant secretary when the increase of business shall require it.

III. The society shall meet regularly at the town of Charlottesville in the county of Albemarle, on the first day of each regular term of the superior court for the said county, and shall continue by adjournment from day to day, until the business to be transacted shall be finished.

IV. The president, or in his absence, the first vice president shall have power to call special meetings of the society, by notice published in at least one newspaper in the city of Richmond, and one in the town of Staunton.

V. A quorum for business shall consist of at least nine members, including the presiding officer; but if from the inclemency of the weather, or the rise of water courses, as many as nine members should not attend, on the day fixed for any meeting, it shall be in the power of any three

members to adjourn the society from day to day, for any number of days not exceeding three.

VI. The officers of the society shall be elected on the first day of each regular meeting in the autumn Each officer, so elected, shall continue in office for one year, and until another shall be chosen in his stead. And in case of any vacancy, by death, resignation or otherwise, the same may be supplied by a new election, to be made at any meeting of the society; the person thus newly elected to serve the remainder of the year.

VII. The president shall preside at the meetings of the society, and perform all the usual duties of that station. In his absence the same duties shall devolve on the first vice president. If he also should be absent, then on the second vice president, and if neither of these officers should be present, then on the vice president pro tempore, to be elected for the occasion as hereinafter directed.

VIII. The treasurer shall keep his accounts mothodically stated in a book to be provided for that purpose; and when required, produce them for inspection. At every stated meeting in the autumn, and also whenever his office ends, he shall produce a fair and regularly stated account of all receipts, payments and expenditures. In the latter case, he shall moreover deliver such accounts, together with all books and other property of the society, in his hands, to his successor in office, or to the orders of the society.

IX. The secretary shall have in charge all the books and papers of the society, other than those in the hands of the treasurer, and keep the same in exact order. He shall register all letters which shall be written by the committee of correspondence, or by himself, by order of the committee.

X. At the regular meeting of the society in the autumn, shall be chosen a committee of correspondence to consist of five members, any three of whom to be a quorum, for the purpose of corresponding with any other society, or persons, touching the objects which this society has in view. At the same time shall be chosen a committee of accounts, consisting of three members to receive and adjust all claims against the society for its contingent expenses, and the President or first Vice-President shall give orders on the Treasurer for the payment of them.

XI. The members of the society shall be distinguished into *Ordinary* and *Honorary*.

The persons present in person or by proxy, at the meeting which appointed the committee to draw up these rules and regulations, or at the meeting by which they were adopted, and such other persons as hereafter may be elected for the purpose by the society, shall be *ordinary* members.

All such distinguished citizens of this state, and of other states and countries, whom the society may elect for the purpose, shall be *honorary* members—and they are hereby invited to aid the society, and, if convenient, to assist at its meetings.

Strangers who desire to be present as auditors may be introduced; and for that purpose each member shall be authorized to bring one friend along with him to any meeting.

XII. New members either ordinary or honorary may be elected. But no person shall be voted for as a member, unless at a previous meeting he shall have been proposed by two members to the society, with an assurance in the case of an ordinary member, that he is desirous of joining the society.

Nor in any instance shall a vote be taken, unless at the time of nomination, a statement in writing, signed by the proposers, and containing the name, and place of abode, of the person proposed, shall have been handed to the Secretary, read to the society, and entered on the minutes.

Nor shall any person be elected a member, unless two-thirds of the members present vote for his admission.

XIII. Whenever a new member is elected, it shall be the duty of the Secretary forthwith to notify him of his election in the following form:

On the day of 18 A. B. of was elected a Member (or Honorary Member) of the Agricultural Society of Albemarle, the society inviting his assistance.

C. D. Secretary.

XIV. No person elected as an ordinary member, shall be entitled to the privileges of the society, unless he shall have subscribed these rules and regulations, and paid his arrears, if any are due, to the society.

XV. New members may be nominated at any meeting: but all elections of members shall be at one of the stated meetings of the society.

The elections of officers, members and committees, shall be by ballot; and the majority of members present, including the presiding officer, shall decide all questions, except those touching the elections of members and the rules of the society.

XVI. If the presiding officers, the treasurer or secretary, be absent from any meeting, the society shall elect one to serve *pro hac vice*.

XVII. As soon as the funds will admit, the society shall propose prizes for experiments and improvements in husbandry, and for the best pieces written on proposed subjects. And in order more effectually to disseminate the knowledge of useful discoveries and improvements in husbandry, the society will from time to time, publish collections of memoirs and observations, selected from such communications as shall be made to them. To promote these views, the friends of agriculture are invited to assist the society with experiments and incidents in husbandry.

XVIII. All claims of prizes shall be sent in writing—and when read, the society shall determine which of the claims, relative to each prize, shall be selected for their definitive judgment on a future comparison. If it happen in any case, that there be no competition for a prize, but only a single claim, the society will consider such claim, and if the claim or claims be supported answerably to the views and just expectations of the society, the prize proposed shall be decreed.

XIX. Every ordinary member shall on the day of his admission, and also on the first day of every succeeding regular autumnal meeting pay to the treasurer the sum of five dollars.

At the close of every regular autumnal meeting, the treasurer shall lay before the society, a list of the members, specifying those who have, and those who have not paid their contributions; and if the contribution of any member shall be found more than one year in arrears, after the same shall have become due and payable, and if the same has been personally demanded of him by the treasurer, or collector authorized by him for the purpose, such member shall be considered as withdrawing from the society, and be no longer deemed a member—and the same shall be entered on the minutes.

Any member of the society may withdraw from the same, by sending a letter of resignation to the secretary, and by paying up any arrears which, at the time, he may owe the institution.

XX. The funds of the society shall be appropriated by a majority of the members present, at regular meetings, to the objects of the institution, in such manner as shall be deemed most beneficial, and to no other purpose whatever.

XXI. Donations may be received by the treasurer, to be added to the funds of the society.

XXII. In order to prevent imposition, the secretary shall to each article of intelligence, annex the name of the person offering it.

XXIII. No new rule, nor alteration in any old rule shall take place, unless it be sanctioned by two-thirds of the members present at two successive stated meetings of the society.

XXIV. The society shall be kept in order by the rules which are observed for that purpose by the General Assembly of this State.

KITCHEN GARDEN, FOR NOVEMBER.

(From the American Practical Gardener, published by Fielding Lucas, Jr.)

General Remarks.

As much may be done at this time, towards the laying out and preparing of new kitchen gardens, for the ensuing season, recur to directions given in former months.

In the beginning of this month, dung and trench the ground, that is intended for early crops, and lay it up in high, narrow, sloping ridges, particularly, if it be any way stiff, or of a heavy nature, to receive the benefit of the winter frost, &c. which will meliorate and enrich it; besides, by having as much of this work performed now, as can be conveniently done, it will greatly forward and assist in spring, when you are hurried with the pressure of business.

Should the frost set in towards the latter end of the month, so as to bind up the ground, and prevent your trenching, cart or wheel manure into the different quarters, wherever it may be wanted.

Celery, Endive, and Cardoons.

Continue, during the early part of this month, to blanch your celery, endive, and cardoons, as directed in the preceding months, but when severe frosts come on, they must be preserved therefrom, in the following manner:

Every third row of the celery may be suffered to stand where growing, opening a trench on each side of every standing row, within six inches thereof, for the reception of the plants of the other two rows, which are to be taken up carefully, with as little injury as possible, either to their tops or roots, and planted in those new trenches, in the order they formerly stood. When the three rows are thus planted earth them up near to the extremities of their leaves, and as soon as the frost comes on severe, in a dry day, cover this wholly over with a little straw, and over this a good coat of earth. If the rows run east and west, the south side may easily be opened, to take out the plants when wanted. Or,

Celery may be taken up when dry, air it well, and plant it in sand, in a dry cellar, in the same manner, as directed for planting it in the frames.

The beds of celery, which were planted, as before directed, should in the early part of this month, be earthed up to within six inches of the tops of the plants, and as soon as the hard frosts commence, earth them up, then lay a covering of dry sand over each row, rounding it off, and after this, a coating of dry straw. The celery thus protected, may be taken up in winter when wanted, unless the weather should prove too severe.

The above work should be performed in dry weather, and when the plants are perfectly free from wet, otherwise they will be very liable to rot.

Cabbage, and Cauliflower Plants.

During the continuance of mild weather, give your cabbage and cauliflower plants every advantage of receiving free air, to inure them, by degrees, to bear the cold, by taking the glasses off entirely, in the warm part of the day; but always be careful to place them over the frames again, at night, and also in wet, and cold weather. Notwithstanding, when the days are cold, except there is a sharp cutting wind, the glasses may be raised, in the day time a little behind, for the admission of air, but whenever severe frosts set in, the beds must be carefully covered at night and at other times when necessary to protect the plants from being frozen.

Housed Onions.

Dried onions should be occasionally examined, and such as are beginning to rot, carefully taken away.

Preserving Cabbages and Borecole for winter and spring use.

Previous to the setting in of the hard frost in winter, take up your cabbages and savoys, observing to do it in a dry day; turn their tops downwards, and let them remain so for a few hours, to drain off any water that may be lodged between the leaves; then plant them down to the heads in a ridge of dry earth, in a warm sheltered place, close to one another, previously taking off their loose hanging leaves. Erect over them a low, temporary shed, to keep them free from wet, let this covering be open at both ends, to admit the air freely, in mild dry weather; these ends are to be closed with straw, when the weather is very severe.

Preserving Potatoes and Turnips.

Where there are plenty of good warm cellars, when these esculents are taken out of the ground, the tops of the turnips cut, and both of them as much as possible cleared of earth, they may be preserved through the winter in warm dry cellars, which will afford an opportunity of picking and sorting them. Or they may be covered in the earth, by choosing a dry sheltered spot of ground, and laying straw at the bottom, and sides, as well as covering the top therewith, and over the whole a sufficient covering of earth, to protect the roots effectually from frosts. An opening may be made on the south side of this heap, and completely covered with bundles of straw, so as to have access to the roots at all times, when wanted, either for sale or use.

Preserving Carrots, Parsneps, Beets, Salsafy, &c.

The best method of preserving these plants, through the winter, after they are taken up, and the tops cut off, is to expose them for a few hours to the air, and then pack them separately, in dry sand, in a warm celler, free from moisture, from whence they may be taken, whenever wanted.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.—*No. VII*

Mr. Skinner.—It is about forty years since an old schoolmate of mine, then in the vigour of youth, with a young wife and little money, pushed his way into the back woods, and began the world by cutting down trees and putting up a log-house. Having laid it down as a rule to himself, never to contract debts for any thing except the absolute necessaries of life; he purchased a breeding mare, one cow, two sucking pigs, a couple of sheep, and as many fowls, and as these had taken all the money he could spend, he waited patiently until they multiplied, so as to stock his farm. He laboured late and early to clear and cultivate his ground, so that after the first two years, he had plenty and to spare. The returns of whatever he had to dispose of, were prudently laid out in improving his farm, or paying off the purchase money, as it became due. He afterwards built a good barn and stable, before he thought of exchanging the little log house for a stately stone dwelling.

Meantime his wife was equally attentive to the duties of her sphere and station. Her poultry, her pigs, her sheep, and her calves, experienced her daily attention, and repaid it with interest. Her husband never sold a pound of wool, bought neither coat nor blanket, nor experienced the want of them. It never entered her head to barter twenty pounds of wool for a yard of broad cloth—a barrel of flour for ten pounds of coffee—nor thirty yards of home made linen for a silk gown. The sparkling cider, and unadulterated essence of rye, were always ready on proper occasions; and instead of the enervating juice of Asiatic weeds, she served her guests and her family with the wholesome and nourishing stores of the spring-house.

In this manner did our prudent couple live, and conduct their domestic concerns for many years; and though they were not exempted from the ordinary disappointments and calamities of life, yet they enjoyed its comforts to a degree little known or felt, by many in more splendid circles of society.

It is now about six years since the companion of my youth went down to his grave, and his faithful partner soon followed him. She left his only son, (his daughters being long before provided for) an excellent farm of five hundred acres, in a high state of improvement, with every thing necessary for domestic comfort and independence. The son, however, had imbibed very different maxims from those of his father. He loved money, but did not like to work for it. He despised what he called the trifling and slow returns of daily industry, and thought it much better to become rich at once. He therefore united with some others, who were equally anxious for wealth, and they set on foot a project for establishing a bank in the neighbouring town. The object was accomplished, and the son of my old friend was made a director. This point gained, he purchased land to the amount of ninety thousand dollars, and paid half of it by means of the new bank, in full confidence that in less than two years he would sell it for double that sum. But it turned out otherwise. Before two years he could not get his own for it, and the sheriff has lately taken the liberty of selling it for him, and also the farm his father left him, to pay the balance due to the bank; and his mode of becoming expeditiously rich has left him so poor, that he has neither house nor home; a thousand times worse off, than his father, the day he cut down the first tree.

COGITATIVUS.

Occasional Extracts.

On the agricultural habits of the people in the lower counties of Maryland.

The following is a familiar letter from a friend in a neighbouring county, not designed for publication, but it contains so many good hints, and hits off, with so much truth, certain bad habits and prejudices, that we cannot refrain from "holding up the mirror" to those slaves of early impressions, who live on without daring to inquire whether some alterations may not be made for the better. There is nothing in the letter to which the writer need hesitate to attach his name; yet we have so suppressed names and circumstances, that we hope he will excuse us for the liberty we have taken—we sincerely wish, he would favour us more frequently with his reflections, on the agricultural practices of the lower counties, which stand in need of so much reform.—*Editor.*

Mr. Skinner,—You seem to think that tobacco may be introduced into a rotation of crops with great advantage, and, Agricola says, that much would be gained by the introduction of such a mode of culture. This would prepare the minds of many for its total abandonment.—The planter and the farmer are incompatable. If tobacco is raised in sufficient quantity to be an object, it will interfere with every other species of crop, and one or the other must be neglected. However, Mr. ——, of your native county, is trying the experiment, and several others of my acquaintances, and I flatter myself that I have been in some small degree, instrumental in effecting this change among them. Mr. ——'s plan is clover succeeded by tobacco, tobacco by wheat, wheat by corn, and corn by rye, oats and other small grain, which will admit of the sowing clover. This plan, you will observe, admits of four fields and perhaps some lots, and, after all, clover is its foundation or base. Now, my dear sir, is it not disgraceful to the lower counties to be indebted annually to Pennsylvania for their *clover seed?* and yet this is the fact. Have not these people sufficient industry and sense to get out their own clover seed? Yes. But at the instant of time when clover seed should be got out, tobacco should be housed, for it is the peculiar quality of this pernicious weed, to rob all other crops of the requisite labour, and to demand for itself ten times as much as any other crop, thus impoverishing its cultivator by many mouths. I know, sir, that my reasoning will be deemed madness, that those who have dug and delved in the earth for half a century, surrounded by tobacco worms and covered with their slime, will never comprehend me. I want the farmer to be more than a mere raiser of grain, I wish him to unite what he now considers horticultural productions, with his wheat, and other grain, and grasses. From whence is Baltimore supplied with potatoes, turnips and onions? From a distant part of the Union, by an industrious and frugal people. Yet all these may be cultivated with the plough, an assertion which would startle a

tobacco planter, and make him fancy the world was turned upside down. A gentleman in Anne-Arundel county assured me some time since, that an acre of ground planted in cabbages, had produced him five hundred dollars. Let the planter look to this. An acre of ground contains 5000 cabbages, so it will of tobacco, and they will sell (if fit for making sour crout, &c. now getting more and more into use for seavoyages) for $10 a hundred.* But the propagator of horn worms will exclaim, if we were all to make cabbages they would sell for nothing. Be it so. But is there nothing else within his reach but cabbages? Among the multitude of esculent plants, which Almighty God has bestowed on undeserving man, he may find a variety to cultivate, and the Maryland lowlander may find many he never saw, for his tobacco has made a forcible entry and detainer on his premises, and completely ousted from possession the nobler plants which become food for man and beast.† The philosophic sage of Monticello has reasoned conclusively on the subject. I have not his Notes on Virginia by me, nor time to hunt it up, but read him on tobacco and be convinced, I will give you two instances which occurred lately, among many others, to prove its "starving quality," as Arator calls it. A short time since I was in company with two ladies, famous for sending each dainty variety to market. Strawberries had been scarce, though wild ones were as abundant as usual. I asked them why they had sent none to market, they who formerly sent such quantities both from the garden and the field, and was informed that the high price of tobacco had induced their husbands to pitch a large crop, and not a boy could be spared to weed the garden, to gather them in the field, or bring them to market. I was afterwards informed that in the absence of one of the ladies, her son had ploughed up the strawberry beds in the garden, to prevent any interference with the crop. As to the other instance it is of a melancholy nature. I had business which occasioned me to call at the house of a planter. He had a fine little boy, an only son, of twelve years old, but this boy did not go to school, and the planter father gave me as a reason, that he had taken him away, because the school was too far to walk, and he could not spare a horse from the crop. This was not a poor man, but moderately wealthy. Little did Arator think that while this weed starved its cultivator and the soil, that it starved the human intellect. In Baltimore there are several extensive breweries, and I believe not a regular *hop garden* in the state, and but little barley raised.—You say many gentlemen are beginning to write under their proper names; mine could give no reputation to an agricultural work or essay, but would subject me to the ridicule of those, who find fault where they cannot comprehend, and denounce all schemes which they have never practised.

P. S. From the sowing of the tobacco beds to the day of inspection, is about 18 months. I may one day give you my ideas on the cultivation of it. The present mode is contrary to reason and nature, and requires more labour than is necessary by double. I shall also furnish you with some other whim-whams of mine.

* They were sold in this market this morning for $5; it is mentioned to give a sure basis for calculation.—*Edit. Am. Far.*

† Nothing was ever more true—who has not seen the farmer and planter with several hundred acres of land, and a dozen or more of slaves, whose table was destitute of a pound of good butter—a single nice potato—parsnip or tomato—who could not treat a friend to a single good apple, peach, pear, or bottle of sparkling cider—without a decent saddle-horse, or even a saddle for himself, his wife, or his daughters—in short as destitute of all those little domestic comforts and conveniencies, that serve to beguile and sweeten the cares and drudgery of domestic life, as a Choctaw Indian—Such must ever be the lot of those unreflecting, unenterprising *drones*, who shut their eyes against all the lights and improvements of the age, in which they live, who vegetate and die, but *never flourish!*—*Edit. A. Far.*

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

On the organization and utility of Agricultural Societies, and the importance of the knowledge of Chemistry, as connected with Agriculture. By Eli S. Davis, esq.

Abbeville, S. C. Oct. 13, 1819.

Mr. Skinner.

SIR: It is but recently that I had an opportunity of seeing a few numbers of the American Farmer, with which I am much pleased.

Such a paper, devoted as it appears to be, to the diffusion of that kind of knowledge which is peculiarly useful to the agriculturist, cannot be too universally patronized.

Agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, are generally viewed as having a co-ordinate influence on the wealth, strength, and prosperity of a nation. I am willing to admit a co-operative influence, but agriculture is precisely to the other two, what the blood is to the animal system. Without agriculture, the other two could not more exist, than man could live without blood. It is, in truth, the *pabulum vito* of all the great and essential relations of government. I need not go into a logical discussion to prove this fact; it is too plain to require illustration. But few of the many valuable improvements in agriculture are known here, and such as are known, are but partially exercised to any practical advantage. We depend measurably upon the native strength of our soil, without calling in those inestimable aids with which the ingenuity of man has furnished us.

The organization of agricultural societies should be adopted in every county and district in the Union. Besides exciting a laudable emulation in the farmer, they would tend very much to the introduction of rare and valuable articles of husbandry and horticulture. When a new invention, or improvement is offered, its utility or inutility should be tested by the members of some agricultural society; and whether approved of or not, the result should be reported through the medium of some agricultural paper.

In either case, the propriety of making a report is obvious. If the invention, or improvement, should be deemed useless, the report would have the effect to supersede imposition on the public. If, on the contrary, it should be considered one which promised much ultimate good, a favourable report would greatly enhance its value, and bring it at once into general use.

To each of these societies, a gentleman should be attached, whose knowledge of chemistry would enable him to deliver at each meeting of the society, a lecture on that department of physical science. Should this be found impracticable, the chemical works of Davy, Accum, Bachet, and La Grange ought to be purchased for the use of its members.

By this means the great laboratory of nature would be gradually opened to the view of many, who, perhaps, know but little of the very intimate connexion that subsists between chemistry and agriculture.

It would enable men to reason on the properties, and affinities of things, and with the assistance of a chemical apparatus, develope the causes of many important phenomena. It is contended that "agriculture can only be rationally improved by calling in the assistance of the chemical philosopher; for it is chemistry which explains the phenomena of vegetation, germination, the growth, the ripening, and the death of plants."

The greatest good rendered by Buonaparte to the French nation, was derived from his patronage and sedulous exertions in disseminating chemical information throughout France; by which a new aspect and lustre was imparted to the agricultural department.

I am convinced that, the absence of this knowledge is one great cause of the retardation of agricultural improvements in this country. There is raised this year, in this state, a superabundance of corn, oats, potatoes, peas, rye and wheat: the latter yielding from 15 to 30 bushels per acre. This must at once refute the idea which I find to be prevalent in the northern states, that South Carolina is a cotton state only, and that its climate and soil are inhospitable to the production of small grain.

Yours respectfully,

ELI S. DAVIS.

FOR THE AMEICAN FARMER.

Mr. Editor—Through the medium of your useful paper, I wish to recommend a small.

NEW ENGLAND PLOUGH,

which I have several times seen in operation in this county. It is of easy draught, turns the ground well over; is of simple construction, and moderate price—from five to six dollars. It is decidedly the best kind of plough I have ever seen, either for seeding wheat, cultivating corn, or breaking land; and ought to be brought into general use. Many farmers of my acquaintance wish to obtain them, but are not able to find them in your market. It is said that they can be had at Norfolk. A consignment of them to Baltimore next spring, would be of public benefit.—Those I allude to are branded "H. Pease, Enfield, Connecticut." ARATOR.

Talbot, Oct. 25, 1819.

The Editor will be thankful to any of his Connecticut or Norfolk subscribers for any information as to the origin and price of this plough.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1819.

We hope our subscribers will not fail to read attentively, the communication on the cultivation of artificial grasses, from the pen of one of the most ex-

perienced and celebrated agriculturists and statesmen in our country

The readers of this journal must not expect to find its pages filled with light ephemeral speculations and essays, cooked up to satisfy the ever craving appetites of news-mongers and politicians.—The science of agriculture is difficult—the very nature of its operations laborious, and enduring through the whole year; it is to be expected therefore, that essays treating of the vegetation, growth and management of a single object will often be long and tedious. As however the farmer gets his paper but once a week, it will be no difficult matter to get through and reflect on all it contains in his leisure moments during that period—moments which would otherwise but too often be spent in total idleness, if not thrown away in vicious pursuits. Or let him hand the paper to be read out, as the phrase is, by his sons and daughters And what is more pleasing to an uncorrupted mind, than to contemplate the picture of innocence and happiness, represented by the honest husbandman, sitting with his helpmate after the toils of the day round the cheerful fire, in the midst of a group of happy, healthful children, each of whom reads alternately that which improves them, and enables the father with increased intelligence and effect to pursue an honest calling, which affords him the means of giving them food and raiment, intellect and moral character?

Upon those who are, in good earnest, turning their attention to the improvement of their exhausted lands, it cannot be too often urged that the first step to be taken in every plan of improvement, must have in view the accumulation of grass—without that both for winter and summer food, we cannot maintain live stock—without stock we cannot raise manure. Having recorded Col. Taylor's essay on this subject as a preliminary step, we shall go on in future numbers to speak of particular kinds of grass, and amongst others, of one which has been very little treated of in American publications on agriculture; but which we are persuaded will do well in situations where no other grass can be produced—we mean the *Fiorin*. The zealous and learned President of the Agricultural Society of Prince George's county, has had the kindness to loan the Editor "*The Rules and Proceedings of the Anniversary of the Workington Agricultural Society*" Amongst much other interesting matter, we find a letter from Doctor Richardson on *Fiorin Grass*, which we shall copy into the American Farmer, thereby making it in some degree, more worthy of the distinguished and very flattering support it has received from eminent citizens in every state in the union.

We are glad to see that a Map of the state of Maryland, so long wanting, is now offered by Mr Lucas, who is so well qualified to give us a good one.

We have drawn too freely on the labours of the Editor of the Practical American Gardener, but it contains a great deal of valuable matter besides—It ought to be among the standard family books in every house in the country.—Price $1 25.

Occasional Extracts.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir—In this section of the country our bee-hives are infested with a web-worm, which when fully grown is about an inch long, they are in such quantities as to take entire possession, drive off the bees, destroy all the honey and finally the wax. Will you be so good as to give a hint in your paper? and request any of your readers, that may be possessed of a remedy, to publish it in the American Farmer.

FEMALE BEAUTY AND ORNAMENTS.

The ladies in Japan gild their teeth; and those of the Indies paint them red. The blackest teeth are esteemed the most beautiful in Guzurat, and in some parts of America. In Greenland, the women colour their faces with blue and yellow. However fresh the complexion of a Muscovite may be, she would think herself very ugly, if she was not plastered over with paint. The Chinese must have their feet as diminutive as those of the she goats; and, to render them thus, their youth is passed in tortures. In Ancient Persia an aqueline nose was often thought worthy of the crown; and, if there was any competition between two princes, the people generally went by this criterion of majesty. In some countries, the mothers break the noses of their children, and in others, press the head between two boards, that it may become square. The modern Persians have a strong aversion to red hair; the Turks, on the contrary, are warm admirers of these disgusting locks. The Indian beauty is thickly smeared with bear's fat. But the female Hottentot receives from the hand of her lover, not silks, or wreaths of flowers, but warm guts and reeking tripe, to dress herself with enviable ornaments.

In China, small eyes are liked; and the girls are continually plucking their eye-brows, that they may be small and long. The Turkish women dip a gold brush in the tincture of a black drug, which they pass over their eye-brows. It is too visible by day, but looks shining by night. They tinge their nails with a rose colour.

An ornament for the nose appears to us perfectly unnecessary. The Peruvians, however, think otherwise; and they hang on it a weighty ring, the thickness of which is proportioned by the rank of their husbands. The custom of boring it, as our ladies do their ears, is very common in several nations. Through the perforation are hung various materials; such as green crystal, gold, stones, a single and sometimes a great number of gold rings. This is rather troublesome to them in blowing their noses: and the fact is, some have informed us, that the Indian ladies never perform this very useful operation.

The female head-dress is carried in some countries, to singular extravagance. The Chinese fair carries on her head the figure of a certain bird; this bird is composed of copper, or of gold, according to the quality of the person; the wings spread out, fall over the front of the head-dress, and conceal the temples. The tail long and open, forms a beautiful tuft of feathers. The beak covers the top of the nose; the neck is fastened to the body of the artificial animal by a spring, that it may more freely play, and tremble at the slighest motion.

The extravagance of the Myanteses is far more ridiculous than the above; they carry on their heads a slight board, rather longer than a foot, and about six inches broad; with this they cover their hair, and seal it with wax. They cannot lie down, nor lean, without keeping the neck very straight; and the country being very woody, it is not uncommon to find them with their head dress entangled in the trees. Whenever they comb their hair, they pass an hour by the fire in melting the wax; but their combing is only performed once or twice a year.

To this curious account, extracted from Duhalde, we must join that of the inhabitants of the land of Natal; they wear caps or bonnets, from six to ten inches high, composed of the fat of oxen; they then gradually anoint the head with a purer grease, which mixing with the hair, fastens these bonnets for their lives!

EXTRAORDINARY PRODUCE.

Product of 400 square yards, rather less than a twelfth part of an acre, planted in pumpkins at Westbury, on West River in 1819. This was fresh cleared bottom land, but so full of grubs and roots as not to admit the plough; it was hilled up early, worked over and planted about the 20th of May at 4 1-2 feet distance, and two plants left standing in the hill, the ground received but one hoeing after planting. On the 10th of September, 41 pumpkins were pulled weighing 3873 pounds; the weights of the 30 largest were 152, 146, 140, 140, 137, 132, 130, 123, 120, 115, 112, 110, 110, 107, 105, 100, 97, 95, 93, 92, 92, 92, 92, 90, 89, 87, 84, 82, 80, 80, total 3224 pounds—three of the largest size being rotten and one pulled before, were not weighed, and a number of smaller size not ripe, were left on the vines. The product may be fairly estimated at 50,000 weight per acre at one pulling in the driest season ever recollected by the owner. Twenty-five of the largest will be sent to Baltimore market during the week, that persons desiring, may be supplied with the seed.

EMIGRATION.

Five hundred and sixty-eight passengers arrived at Philadelphia on Sunday, from Antwerp, London, Liperpool, and Nova Scotia.

BALTIMORE,

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